



# The President's Daily Brief

*November 10, 1975*

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## SPANISH SAHARA

*King Hassan yesterday canceled the mass march of Moroccans into Spanish Sahara, strongly implying that Spain has agreed to negotiate a settlement favorable to Morocco.*

In a brief speech from Agadir, Hassan ordered the marchers to return to the closest assembly point in Southern Morocco. He said the march had "accomplished its mission" and hinted that Morocco's claim to the territory will be resolved through negotiations. It may take a few days for all the marchers to return. A second column crossed the border Saturday some 50 miles east of the main group.

Hassan stressed his desire for a new era of good relations with Spain and praised the Spanish army for avoiding a fight with the marchers.

The King's speech came one day after he held talks in Agadir with a senior Spanish official. Although Hassan did not reveal any specifics of an understanding or a framework for future negotiations, he has too much personal prestige at stake to have backed down empty-handed.

The cancellation of the march will defuse tension in the area and provide a good atmosphere for further talks with Madrid. At the same time, however, Hassan will be under growing domestic pressure to demonstrate soon that progress is being made toward a settlement.

Morocco and Spain will still have to deal with Algerian opposition to a direct transfer of the territory to Morocco and to Mauritania, which also claims part of Spanish Sahara. Hassan pointedly ignored Algeria in his speech; he opposes Algerian participation in any negotiations. He is likewise unwilling to accept a referendum on self-determination, as Algiers had demanded, despite Spanish assurances that the results could be manipulated.

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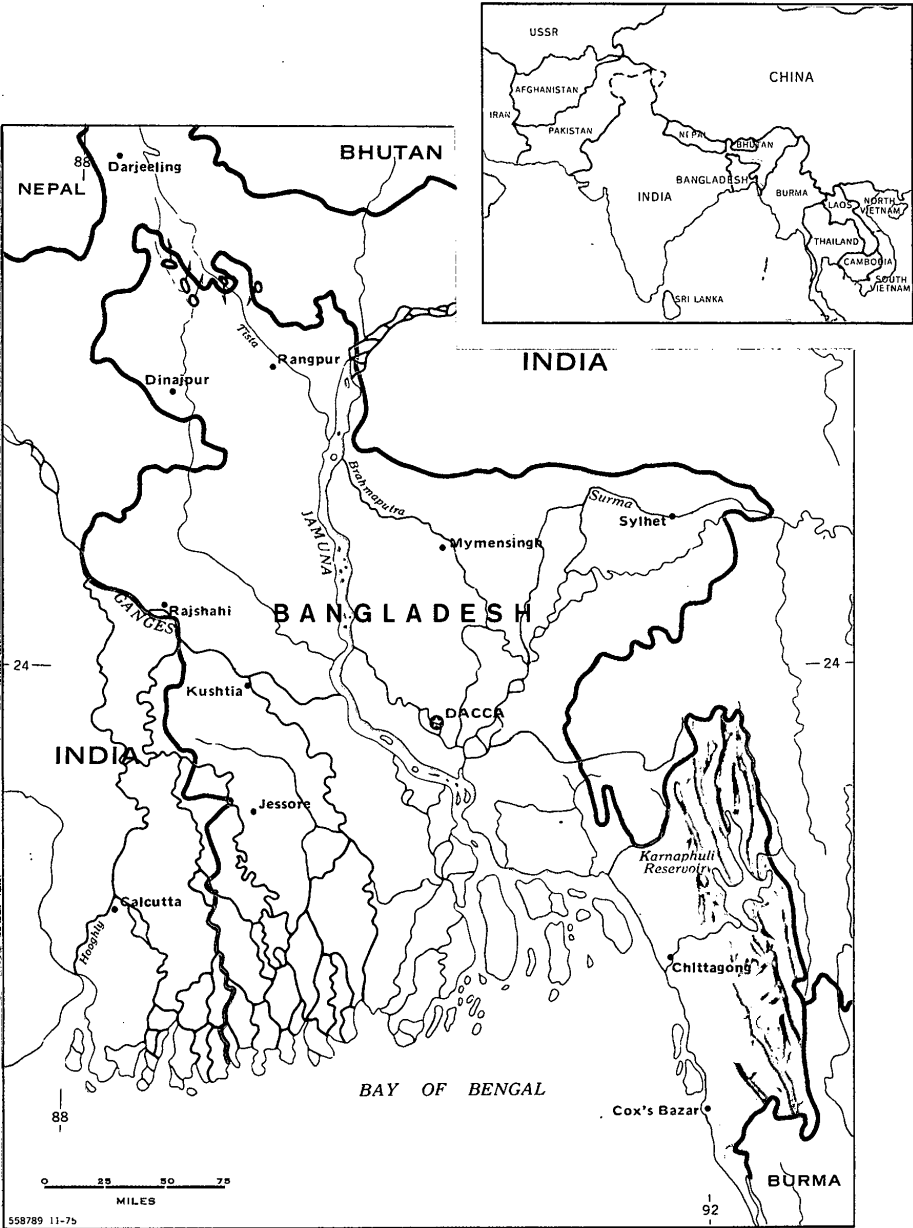
SPAIN

*The length of the waiting period  
for Franco to die is causing new unrest.*

The Communists now are regretting their willingness to grant Juan Carlos a grace period when he becomes king. They reportedly have appealed for a general strike through the Communist-dominated clandestine Workers' Commissions, calling for "democratic action to mobilize the masses."

A date for a strike has not been set, but a week to ten days after Franco's death is the most likely choice. Most of the non-Communist labor organizations are likely to reject the strike call, however, and it probably would be a failure. Any strike effort would be likely to provoke police repression and strengthen the far right.

A sudden crackdown on the Spanish press, meanwhile, may raise political tensions. Several weekly magazines that urged reform have been seized. In addition, over the weekend the editor of a prestigious Madrid daily was charged with attacking the constitution. The charge stemmed from an article he published last week urging increased democratic participation in government after power has passed to Juan Carlos. The decision to crack down on the press may have been made by the information ministry without consulting Juan Carlos.



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## BANGLADESH

*A revolt by enlisted men and non-commissioned officers that erupted in Dacca on Saturday appears to be easing, and conditions are returning to normal. The rebellion emphasizes the indiscipline among the troops and the difficulty the new government faces in imposing its authority on the army.*

A resurgence of factional fighting could easily lead to widespread turmoil and the exodus of much of Bangladesh's sizable Hindu minority to India. Officials in New Delhi have indicated in recent months that a flight of refugees into India, such as the massive influx in 1971, could result in Indian military intervention. So far, it does not appear that New Delhi has decided to intervene.

The origins of the mutiny are obscure; it appears to have developed out of the confusion surrounding the ouster and killing of General Musharraf on Friday and the subsequent rise to power of General Zia ur-Rahman. Enlisted men apparently played a large role in Musharraf's fall, and the government has not fully regained control over them.

Some mutinous elements, including extreme leftists, took advantage of the confusion to make demands on their officers for better treatment for enlisted personnel and for release of some political prisoners. Other mutineers reportedly settled old scores; they killed several officers and detained others.

President Sayem has released some leftist political prisoners who are influential with the rebellious troops. [REDACTED]

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It will be difficult for strongman General Zia to reimpose discipline. The events of the past few days revealed that officers have less influence over their troops than was generally believed. This situation is complicated by contention in the officer corps between those who fought in the 1971 war of independence and those who were held in Pakistan until 1973.

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BANGLADESH

*We present the key paragraphs of an interagency Intelligence Alert Memorandum, The Deteriorating Situation in Bangladesh and the Increasing Possibility of Indian Intervention, issued on November 8.*

The normal command structure of the armed forces has been disrupted with junior officers and enlisted men reportedly making demands of their seniors, even of the new strong man, Major General Zia ur-Rahman. Some of these mutinous groups appear to be radical in orientation, and rumors in Dacca suggest that some may be operating under Indian influence.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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--The Dacca press has labeled the overthrow of Musharraf a "sepoy (enlisted man) mutiny."

[REDACTED]

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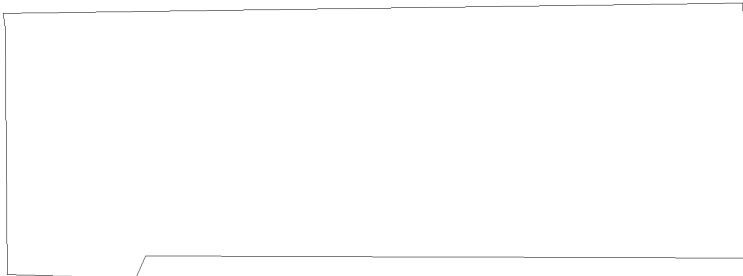


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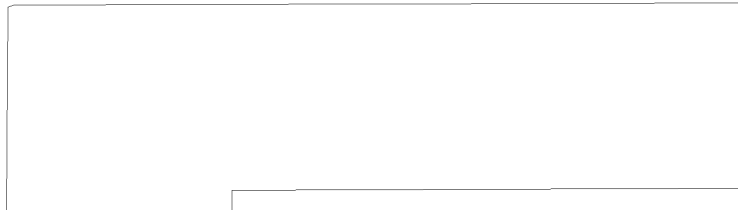


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--The senior Bangladesh military representative in New Delhi has warned that if the eight majors who participated in the August 15 coup against Mujibur Rahman return to Dacca from their exile in Bangkok, the likelihood of Indian intervention will increase markedly. (Our latest information is that the majors are still in Bangkok.)



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We doubt that India as yet has decided to intervene militarily in Bangladesh. Prime Minister Gandhi, following her victory in court, is in a strong position domestically. She has no need at present for a foreign victory to enhance her prestige. Therefore, we judge that she will not deliberately embark on intervention for internal political purposes.

India's foreign relations would also argue against intervention--at least until a good case could be made for it, such as would be furnished by a large movement of refugees into India. India's awareness that there would be a strong negative reaction from other countries, especially from the Muslim world, to intervention would be a major deterrent to precipitate action.

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Indian spokesmen have repeatedly warned, however, that the nation cannot be unconcerned over events in Bangladesh, and that chaos in that country followed by a movement of refugees into India would force New Delhi to intervene regardless of the consequences. New Delhi has also warned that India would intervene if Bangladesh proclaimed itself an Islamic state.

UN - MIDDLE EAST

*The General Assembly today takes up three resolutions on Middle East issues that could have permanent repercussions on the organization. The first to be dealt with concern the rights of Palestinians to a homeland and to international recognition. The assembly then will turn to the resolution equating Zionism with racism.*

The resolutions have split the Arab caucus over how far to push for Palestinian rights and for isolation of Israel.

A unified Arab position on the more controversial Palestinian resolution was reportedly worked out only Friday, primarily through the efforts of Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika. This resolution--originally offered by Egypt in an attempt to paper over differences--calls for an invitation to the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in any UN-sponsored peace conference on the Middle East. It also now calls for the Security Council to adopt measures to enable the Palestinians to exercise their national rights.

The second resolution on the PLO, originally sponsored by Syria, calls for the establishment of a special UN committee to work out a timetable for implementing last year's resolution affirming the rights of the Palestinian people to a national homeland and self-determination. It contains an implicit threat to suspend or expel Israel from the UN if it should obstruct the committee's work.

The resolution equating Zionism with racism goes beyond previous UN condemnations of Israel. It has had the effect of polarizing attitudes in the UN and may lead to accelerated erosion of support for the organization. Most Western and developed countries are strongly opposed to it, as are the African states, whose campaign against racial discrimination and apartheid could be jeopardized.

Most countries are hesitant to oppose an Arab-sponsored initiative openly, but a motion to defer voting on the resolution until next year appears to have wide support.

NOTE

Portuguese Prime Minister Azevedo told cheering supporters in Lisbon yesterday that his government would persevere in the tough policy it announced last week against leftist disturbances.

Even as he spoke, however, leftist militants momentarily disrupted the rally by throwing teargas when the strongly pro-government crowd tried to burn effigies of Soviet boss Leonid Brezhnev and Portuguese Communist Party chief Alvaro Cunhal. In a message aimed at his Communist and far left detractors, Azevedo said his government represents the majority of the Portuguese people and will uphold the law as long as it remains in power.

*Top Secret*